



COURSE DESCRIPTION

2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

ENGL 490-004: Black Noise: Cultures of the African Diaspora
- Phaniel Antwi

Literature Majors Seminar

Term 1

W, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This course analyzes African diasporic art forms in North America, Europe, Latin America through the conceptual lens of “black noise.” We will use the prism of black noise to highlight the dynamic relationship between African diaspora studies and sound studies. While critics have tended to frame black cultural production as noisy, derivative, simple, subversive, we will examine the themes of excess, anger, belonging, erotics and desire. We will interrogate the transnational and transcultural mobility of specific aesthetics as well as ways racial, gender, and sexual identity categories function more broadly within them. Our aim is to use African-diasporic art forms such as music, film, literature and performance art to interrogate this conventional conception of racialized noise.